

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01

CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 AGRE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 EURE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 /049 W

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O 021433Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1802

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 4753

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJ: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS

REF: OTTAWA 4711

1. SEAWAY TOLLS QUESTION SURFACED INDIRECTLY DECEMBER 1 IN MEETING OF TCO WITH G. BELEC (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS) AND M. FARQUHAR (DIRECTOR, FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS), BOTH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, TO REVIEW STATE OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS IN TRANSPORTATION. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TIMBRELL (REFTEL, BOTH OF THESE OFFICIALS DENIED THERE WAS ANY PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION TO HIGHER SEAWAY TOLLS FROM ONTARIO AND THE PRAIRIES. THEY SAID THERE HAD BEEN OCCASIONAL STATEMENTS OF INTEREST GROUPS IN THE AREA, BUT THE PROVINCES WERE NOT PUSHING THE GOC ON THE ISSUE.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY STATED THERE IS A STRONG VIEW FROM ATLANTIC CANADA (THE MARITIMES AND NEWFOUNDLAND) THAT THE SEAWAY SHOULD BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING AS THEY VIEW THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS AS IN EFFECT A GOC SUBSIDY

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TO CENTRAL CANADA AT THEIR EXPENSE. THE ISSUE HAS ARISEN,

THEY WENT ON, IN THE CONTEXT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO IMPOSE ITS USER CHARGES POLICY ON MUCH OF EASTERN CANADA'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM (NOTABLY THE FEDERAL DESIRE TO REDUCE FEDERAL SUBSIDIES ON FERRIES AND RAIL/ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENTS) WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN RESISTING (SEE A-278, APRIL 16, 1976). THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES APPEAR CLOSE TO ACCPETING A REORGANIZATION (ANDRLNAMBXXA REDUCTION) IN AGGREGATE SUBSIDIES, BUT AMONG OTHER THINGS ARE INSISTING THEIR SACRIFICES BE MATCHED BY CENTRAL CANADA-- ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE FINANCING OF THE SEAWAY.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE REQUESTED CONSULATES TO REPORT ON PROVINCIAL VIEWS RE SEAWAY TOLLS.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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